

MINUTES  
JOINT CAPITAL PLANNING COMMITTEE  
March 17, 2016

Members present: Doug Slaughter, Tamson Ely, Jonathan McCabe, Rick Hood, Steve Braun, Bernie Kubiak, Connie Kruger. Staff present: Sonia Aldrich Comptroller, Claire McGinnis Treasurer/Collector.

The meeting was called to order at 9:31 AM by Chair, Doug Slaughter. Jon McCabe agreed to take minutes.

D. Slaughter requested committee feedback on the recently circulated draft Report of the Joint Capital Planning Committee April 2016.

T. Ely raised a concern that the estimated cost of the Jones Library building project discussed in the “upcoming planning issues” section of the report be raised to more accurately reflect current discussions with the architectural team.

S. Braun suggest that the optimal 10% tax-levy target for annual capital funding be emphasized throughout the report.

The Committee agreed that the language focused on potential school and library funding should be worded so as not to assume the funds are already secured. In the case of the Jones Library in particular, funds will be awarded based on the outcome of an upcoming competitive process.

It was agreed that the 5-year budget plan estimates be double-checked and adjusted where necessary before releasing the Report.

Mary Streeter, Chair of the Community Preservation Act Committee reported to JCPEC on CPAC’s proposed 2017 funding awards totaling \$2.1 million.

Highlights:

M. Streeter pointed out that \$200 thousand in funding for the First Congregational Church for a fire sprinkler system is in keeping with past CPAC funding for religious institutions based on their provision of public goods for the community.

\$222 thousand was approved to subsidize home mortgages for homeless families in perpetuity. \$150 thousand was approved for homeless housing and wrap-around services.

\$90 thousand was approved for the Pioneer Valley Habitat for Humanity construction project on N. Pleasant St.

\$125 thousand was set aside for an affordable housing budget reserve.

\$550 thousand was approved for an upgrade of Groff Park facilities.

And \$313 thousand was approved for debt service on existing projects.

C. Kruger suggested that CPAC and JCPC collaborate going forward to identify and coordinate funding for potentially overlapping requests.

B. Kubiak initiated a Committee discussion on the appropriate use of Town Counsel for guidance on CPAC and JCPC projects.

D. Slaughter agreed to incorporate Committee comments in the draft April 2016 report.

D. Slaughter suggested a June meeting to discuss policy issues with Amherst Temporary Town Manager Hechenbleikner before he steps down.

C. Kruger raised concerns regarding the lack of specificity in the Dept. of Public Works request to JCPC for \$50 thousand to fund its Transportation Plan.

The Committee agreed to strike the item for 2017 and request additional information from DPW before considering refunding the item in the fall.

The Committee reallocated the above funds: \$15 thousand for Cherry Hill construction, \$30 thousand for School IT van, and \$15 thousand to be added to stabilization funding.

The Committee agreed that the 1% for Art proposal presented previously by the Amherst Arts Council requires greater detail before it can be included in the JCPC plan.

C. McGinnis noted that a \$3.4 million item for Kendrick Park has been removed from the 5 year plan.

D. Slaughter moved that JCPC minutes for Feb. 25 and March 3 be approved. C. Kruger Seconded. Minutes approved 6-0, Kubiak abstained, Appy absent.

D. Slaughter made a motion to adjourn at 11:39 AM. T. Ely second. Approved 7-0.

Documents List:

Draft Report of the Joint Capital Planning Committee to Town Meeting, April 2016  
FY 2017 CPAC Project Recommendations to Town Meeting